MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

Fast unto death by Sri Masthan.

Mr. SPEAKER.—There is an adjournment motion tabled by Sri Gopala Gowda. It reads as follows:

"This House do stand adjourned to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance and of recent occurrence to wit, the serious condition of one Sri Masthan, a former worker of the Mysore Iron and Steel Works, Bhadravathi, as a result of his Fast unto death, to demand an enquiry into the case of his dismissal."

*ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್. ಗೋಪಾಲಗೌಡ (ಸಾಗರ—ಹೊಸನಗರ).—ಸ್ವಾಮಿ, ನಾನು ಒಂದು ಅತ್ಯಂತ ತುರುತಾಗಿರತಕ್ಕಂಥ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಗಮನವನ್ನು ಪ್ರಾಮುಖ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಸೆಳೆದಿರತಕ್ಕಂಥ ಒಂದು ವಿಷಯದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಚರ್ಚೆ ನಡೆಸಬೇಕೆಂದು ಹೇಳಿ ಒಂದು ಸೂಚನೆಯನ್ನು ಕಳುಹಿಸಿರುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಅವರು ಈಗ ಉಪವಾಸದಿಂದ ಬಹಳವಾಗಿ ಬಳಲಿದ್ದು ಇನ್ನು ವಿಳಂಬಮಾಡುವುದರಿಂದ ಅವರ ಪ್ರಾಣಕ್ಕೆ ಅಪಾಯ ವಿದೆಯೆಂದು ಹೇಳಿ ತಿಳಿದು ಬಂದಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ನಾವು ಈ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಭೆ ಈ ವಿಷಯವನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸಿ ಚರ್ಚೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಅವರ ಪ್ರಾಣವನ್ನು ಉಳಿಸುವುದೂ ಅಲ್ಲದೆ ಅವರ ಬೇಡಿಕೆ ನ್ಯಾಯವಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಪರಿಹಾರವನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸುವುದೂ ಕೂಡ ನಮ್ಮ ಆದ್ಯಕರ್ತವ್ಯವಾಗಿದೆ. ಆ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದ ಸಭೆಯವರು ಈ ನಿಲುವಳಿ ಸೂಚನೆಯನ್ನು ಚರ್ಚಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಈಗ ಅವಕಾಶ ಕೊಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥನೆಮಾಡುತ್ತೇನೆ.

Mr. SPEAKER.—I need not read the adjournment motion again. As Hon'ble Members are aware in order to be admissible the subject matter of the motion should involve the administrative responsibility of the Government. On this ground the subject of Fasts has been held to be inadmissible in several Legislatures and I am also of the same view. Moreover this is a case falling under the category of matters in the ordinary course of administration and the aggrieved person should seek the remedy in the usual manner like approaching Courts or Tribunals. I therefore hold the motion as not in order.

Discussion on Question No. 999 re: Invitations for Khedda Operations.

Mr. SPEAKER.—In the agenda we find the 4th item, discussion on a matter of public importance arising out of Question No. 999 by Sri M. Linganna. The concerned Minister will not be in station and therefore, this will be taken up on Monday.

Threatening letter to a member.

Sri B. P. NAGARAJA MURTHY (Malavalli).—Before proceeding to other business I wish to make a representation. I wish to bring to the notice of the Chair an important matter. The Chair as well as the House are aware of short notice question No. 24 which appeared on the floor of this House on 31st March 1954. It is I who had tabled that question with reference to the loss and recovery of a Government revolver bearing No. 695209. The House is also aware of a number of supplementary questions put and that the Government were not in a position to furnish answers. With a view to elicit more information and to throw more light on the subject matter, on the same day I sent notice of a short notice question under Rule 39 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Legislative Assembly and on 2nd April 1954 I sent another short notice question based on the answers furnished to short notice question No. 24 and the House was adjourned an 3rd April 1954 for the festival (Ugadi) and for the Malnad Conference. When I went to the village for the festival I received a threatening letter which had been posted from Bangalore and delivered at Mandya. I think this is a very strange instance in the history of this House, as far as my knowledge goes. After all, as a legislator, it was my duty to table a short notice question, subject of course to the provisions of the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of this House. For having tabled this short notice question and pursued the matter by tabling another short notice question and given notice under Rule 39, the reward that I have received is this threatening letter (showing the letter to the Chair) and with the permission of the Chair and the House I want to read this letter to the House. I seek the permission of the Chair. I

pray to the Chair to take necessary steps in this matter as it deems fit.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Is it signed by anybody ?

Sri B. P. NAGARAJA MURTHY.—Not signed.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Then, it cannot be read.

Sri B. P. NAGARAJA MURTHY.—But even then, though it is an anonymous letter, it amounts to a breach of privilege of a serious nature. After all, when exercising our freedom of speech, subject to the provisions of the Constitution and Rules of Procedure, if such alarming letters are received by a legislator in the legitimate discharge of his duties, I apprehend that freedom of speech and safety for life and reputation of a member are at stake and it is better if such things are put an end to as early as possible.

And I may bring to the notice of this House that whenever such questions are put, the Government are not in a position to place all the cards on the table. In these circumstances I am at a loss to see what remedy I can seek in this matter. And I may say in this House that if this state of affairs are continued, we are not enjoying Democracy. It is Democracy where law and order are not maintained. If any protection is not given to me, I have to seek elsewhere such protection as I deem fit.

Sri J. MOHAMED IMAM (Jagalur).—Sir, can we say a few words in this connection ?

Mr. SPEAKER.—Not necessary. It is my duty to safeguard the privilege of members. But before that is done, since the letter is not signed by anybody to what extent I can value that letter is also a matter for serious consideration.

* **Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK** (Molakalmuru).—I would submit that for what the letter is worth, it is better the House knows at least the contents, because it is a matter where some threatening words have been used suggesting violence against an Hon'ble Member. Though it is an anonymous letter, there are the facts. For the sake of facts, I would request the Speaker to allow him to read the contents of the letter.

Mr. SPEAKER.—If that is the desire of the House I have no objection.

Several MEMBERS.—Yes, yes.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Yes, the Hon'ble Member may read the letter.

Sri B. P. NAGARAJA MURTHY.—The cover is addressed to ' B. P. Nagaraja Murthy, etc.' It bears two postal seals, one of Bangalore dated 8th April 1954 and posted at 4 P.M. and the other is of Mandya—Delivery at Mandya on 9—4—54 at 9 P.M. The size of the letter is this (pointing it out to the House). The contents are as follows :—

> " Nagaraja Murthy,
>
> You must know with whom you are dealing. If you still pursue the revolver affair your life will be in danger.
>
> Beware. Police God."

I may be permitted to say that my life is threatened in this letter. I am not afraid of Death. Death is the inevitable end of every living being. I am a follower of that great personality who preached and proclaimed ' ಮರಣವೇ ಮಹಾನವಮಿ.'

***Sri J. MOHAMED IMAM** (Jagalur).—Sir, permit me to say a few words. The fact whether the letter is signed or not does not make much difference. But the obvious fact is there, that a member of this House has been threatened with violence, because he took a certain attitude in this House and he brought to the notice of the Government and the Chair certain vague irregularity which must have influenced certain persons. So the fact is there : a member has been threatened with certain grave consequences. Under the circumstances, what is the procedure to be adopted and what protection is to be afforded to him ? It must be admitted that such letters are very rarely signed and they are bound to be sent without signature. But the question is, what is the protection to be given under such circumstances, what is the precaution to be taken under such circumstances, what is the part that Government are going to play and how should the member who has received that kind

(Sri J. MOHAMED IMAM.)

of letter be allowed free scope to discharge his duty as legislator ? That is a question which is left to the decision of the Government and the Chair. The fact that it is not signed must not be a ground for overlooking the danger that has been threatened on a certain member.

Sri A. G. RAMACHANDRA RAO (Minister for Law and Education).—I am sure the House entirely sympathises with the Hon'ble Member Sri B. P. Nagaraja Murthy. Freedom of speech in this House is a cherished privilege which has got to be safeguarded from all encroachments and I sympathise with him along with the rest of the House.

Next, Sir, the anonymity itself speaks ill of the person who has written that letter. If he had the courage of his conviction he should have signed and sent the letter. In the absence of the signature, the encroachment of the right of a member of this House or the breach of privilege that has happened it is very difficult to comprehend or pursue the matter.

All the same, every protection that is needed by the Hon'ble Member will be extended by the Government to him and he can rest assured and rely on that.

I feel that the letter may be forwarded to the Government for such action as may be deemed necessary.

Mr. SPEAKER.—No doubt there is a short notice question tabled by Sri B.P. Nagaraja Murthy. This short notice question, as Hon'ble Members are aware of, can be taken up only if the Minister concerned gives his consent. The Minister in this case has stated that he has already answered and therefore it need not be taken up again. So, on that account that was not taken up. And in view of the serious matter that has now been brought to our notice, the letter in the first instance may be forwarded, if the member has no objection, to my office. I will consider as to what should be done next.

Sri B. P. NAGARAJA MURTHY.—I had submitted a motion also under Rule 39.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Because there is the answer by the concerned Minister that after the full information is received—that is how I remember, subject to correction—he will be in a position to give the information and by the way in which he said that full information he has not received. . . .

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—That is not the position, Sir. So far as the second short notice question is concerned, I have declined to give my consent to answer it for the reason that the points covered by the second short notice question are more or less covered by the first short notice question. But I have no objection if you, Sir, in your discretion, allow the discussion under Rule 39. Now I am in a position to say that a report has been received by me. But I have not passed any orders. The report was received just a day or two back.

Mr. SPEAKER.—So far as the short notice question is concerned, this is the note made by the Hon'ble Minister concerned—

> "I do not wish to answer this as I have already answered once."

In view of that I could not do anything. Now, as the concerned Minister says that he has received information, I will allow discussion.

Sri B. P. NAGARAJA MURTHY.—Thank you, Sir.

Business of the House

*Sri J. MOHAMED IMAM (Jagalur).—I want to bring to the notice of the Chair that yesterday the Hon'ble Minister for Law presented the report of the Sales Tax Select Committee to the House. But we did not get copies of the report till 11 this morning. So we had absolutely no time to study it and send notice of amendments. I suggest therefore that the time for sending up amendments may be extended till 11 o'clock tomorrow and the discussion on the Bill may be taken up only on Monday.

Sri A. G. RAMACHANDRA RAO (Minister for Law and Education).—I am sorry for the late delivery of the copies. In view of only 3 or 4 days being left for us, I submit that notice of amendments, if any, may be given